

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respond herein to the Office Action of February 12, 2009.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-6, 10-16 and 18-20 were rejected in the Office Action, and Claims 7-9 and 17 were indicated as allowable. Applicants amend Claims 1, 7 and 10 and respectfully request a reconsideration of the rejections.

Claims 1-6, 10-16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 63057414 ("JP '414").

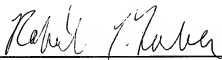
Claim 1, as amended, recites a transport device including a driven transport element 9 and basic carriers 11. See, Application, Fig. 1. The transport element has a single belt, and each basic carrier includes rollers 31, 33 securely mounting the basic carrier solely on the single belt. The rollers too are solely on the belt. See the effect in Claims 18 and 19. See also, Specification, page 10, lines 20-24, and Fig. 2. Thus, besides the single belt, there are no additional structural elements supporting the basic carriers 11. This also facilitates operation of the stop in Claims 18-20.

JP '414 discloses a moving element 2 mounted on the rail 22 to move a transported object 24. See, JP '414, Abstract. Moving element 2 is connected to rollers 14 and 8 positioned on a moving belt 4. See, JP '414, Figs. 1 and 2. Thus, the moving element of JP '414 is positioned on the rail and, through rollers 14 and 8, on the belt 4. Accordingly, moving element 2 is not mounted "solely" on the single belt, as required by the amended Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is allowable over JP '414. Claims 2-20 depend from Claim 1. Therefore, Claims 2-20 are allowable over JP '414 at least for the same reasons as Claim 1 and further on their own merits. For example, Claim 10, as amended, recites that the basic body is positioned over the single belt and between the rollers. This limitation of Claim 10 is not disclosed or even suggested in JP '414. Specifically, the entire body of the moving element 2 of JP '414 is positioned adjacent to a side of the belt 4. See JP '414, Fig. 1. Therefore, Claim 10 is allowable over JP '414.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of Claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
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THROUGH THE PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING
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Respectfully submitted,



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